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# Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

**Report on the fourteenth session**
**(20 April-1 May 2015)**

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# Chapter I

## Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

### A. Draft decisions recommended by the Permanent Forum for adoption by the Council

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

**Draft decision I**
**International expert group meeting on the theme "Indigenous languages: preservation and revitalization (articles 13, 14 and 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)"**

The Economic and Social Council decides to authorize a three-day international expert group meeting on the theme "Indigenous languages: preservation and revitalization (articles 13, 14 and 16 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)".

**Draft decision II**
**Venue and dates for the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum**

The Economic and Social Council decides that the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues shall be held at United Nations Headquarters from 9 to 20 May 2016.

**Draft decision III**
**Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its fourteenth session and provisional agenda for its fifteenth session**

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its fourteenth session;[1]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum, as set out below:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum.
4. Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
5. Discussion on the theme "Indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution".
6. Dialogue with indigenous peoples.

[1] E/2015/43-EC.19/2015/10.

7. Dialogue with Member States.

8. Dialogue with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

9. Coordination among the three United Nations mechanisms pertaining to indigenous peoples:

   (a) Coordination among the three United Nations mechanisms pertaining to indigenous peoples;

   (b) Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

10. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.

11. Provisional agenda for the sixteenth session.

12. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its fifteenth session.

## B. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has identified the proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action set out below and, through the Economic and Social Council, recommends that States, entities of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples, the private sector and non-governmental organizations assist in their realization.

3. It is the understanding of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum that those proposals, objectives, recommendations and areas of possible future action to be carried out by the United Nations, as set out below, will, to the extent possible, be implemented within the context of the approved programme of work of the relevant entities.

**Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

**Outcome of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples**

4. The Permanent Forum notes that some States have developed national institutions to protect the rights of indigenous peoples, such as ombudsmen, ministries and presidential councils, in addition to providing for the constitutional recognition of indigenous peoples and their proportional representation at various levels of government. Likewise, some United Nations agencies have also played an active part in implementing the principle of free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples during the implementation of their programmes in various countries.

5. The Permanent Forum welcomes the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (resolution 69/2), which memorializes the solemn commitments of Member States to the Charter of the United Nations and the rights affirmed in the

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Forum also welcomes the designation by the Secretary-General of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs as the senior official within the United Nations to coordinate action in follow-up to the outcome document, including the system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration.

6. The Permanent Forum recommends that States, indigenous peoples and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes immediately engage in a consultative process focused on the full and effective implementation of the outcome document at the local, national, regional and international levels. It also recommends that the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs outline and provide his vision of a procedure to guarantee the direct participation of representatives of indigenous peoples, including the expert members of the Forum, in the preparation and coordination of the system-wide action plan, with the objective of promoting and protecting the human rights of indigenous peoples and to enhance and increase the coherence of the activities of the United Nations system in that regard. The Forum invites the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs to inform the Forum on the progress at its fifteenth session.

7. The Permanent Forum recommends that the General Assembly consider establishing a new procedure, in collaboration with indigenous peoples, to guarantee the effective participation of representatives of indigenous peoples and, in particular, indigenous governance institutions, in the seventieth session of the Assembly, including a corresponding accreditation mechanism.

8. The Permanent Forum welcomes the interest expressed at the interactive dialogue on the follow-up to the World Conference held by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on 22 April 2015, in which States and indigenous peoples stressed the importance of repatriating ceremonial objects and human remains. The Forum therefore recommends that States and indigenous peoples establish a working group to prepare a manual of good practice with regard to the repatriation of ceremonial objects and human remains, with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other United Nations entities, and submit a progress report to the Forum at its fifteenth session.

**Post-2015 development agenda**

9. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the rich presentation of speakers and active participation of States, United Nations agencies, indigenous peoples and others in the high-level stocktaking event convened by the President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly on the post-2015 development agenda in September 2014. The Forum takes note of the serious concerns raised by indigenous peoples over the lack of explicit reference to and inclusion of indigenous peoples as distinct groups with collective rights in the development of the goals and targets of the development agenda. The Forum reaffirms the need to ensure that the development agenda will be fully aligned with the United Nations Declaration as well as international human rights obligations and commitments of States.

10. The Permanent Forum requests that States incorporate commitments made in the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples into the development of the post-2015 development agenda, especially the action points on data disaggregation, land rights, traditional knowledge, the implementation of free,





prior and informed consent and access to justice presented by indigenous speakers in the thematic panels during the high-level stocktaking event, and reaffirm their commitments to indigenous peoples in the political declaration of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, with the following paragraph:

> We affirm that indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development, based on their security, of their lands, territories and resources. We commit ourselves to ensuring equal access to high-quality education that recognizes the diversity of the cultures of indigenous peoples, and to health, housing, water, sanitation and other economic and social programmes to improve their well-being, including through initiatives, policies and the provision of resources. We intend to empower indigenous peoples, including women, to deliver such programmes and commit ourselves to working with indigenous peoples to disaggregate data on indigenous peoples' development and well-being.

11. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators engage with indigenous peoples in developing key indicators relating to indigenous peoples' rights to their lands, territories and resources, traditional knowledge, free, prior and informed consent, empowerment of indigenous women, access to justice and special measures addressing the particular circumstances of indigenous peoples regarding relevant poverty, health, education and socioeconomic development targets of the 17 goals.

**Self-harm and suicide among children and young people**

12. Indigenous peoples worldwide continue to suffer from the intergenerational trauma of colonization, assimilation, loss of language, culture and traditional knowledge and the disintegration of families. Collectively, these problems are linked to the lack of recognition of and respect for the right of self-determination of indigenous peoples. Such trauma can lead to desperation and hopelessness, with indigenous communities frequently seeing suicide rates that are significantly higher than among the general population. This challenge affects indigenous peoples in all regions of the world.

13. The Permanent Forum urges States to recognize that suicidal behaviour, suicide and self-harm are directly related to the social and economic situation of indigenous peoples in specific countries and primarily linked to loss of self-identification and departure from the roots of traditional culture and ways of life. This, in turn, is linked to the loss by indigenous peoples of their rights to their lands and territories, natural resources, traditional ways of life and traditional uses of natural resources.

14. The Permanent Forum welcomes information received from States and indigenous peoples on current initiatives and strategies to tackle self-harm and suicide among indigenous children and young people at the national level, as well as on international efforts in the Arctic and Latin America. In particular, at the regional level, the Forum welcomes the information from the Pan American Health Organization on initiatives that are being conducted in Latin America. The Forum is, however, concerned by the lack of coordination at the global level.

15. The Permanent Forum therefore urges the World Health Organization to develop a strategy and programme to tackle self-harm and suicide among indigenous children and young people at the global level. The Forum recommends taking into account the initiatives that are being conducted at the regional level, in particular by the Pan American Health Organization, and using them as a basis for further expansion. As a first step, the Forum suggests that the World Health Organization gather evidence and initiate research on the prevalence of self-harm and suicide among indigenous children and young people at the global level and prepare a compilation of good practices on prevention of self-harm and suicide among indigenous young people, publishing its findings by 1 January 2017.

16. The Permanent Forum recommends that the United Nations Children's Fund develop and adopt a comprehensive and distinct policy on indigenous children and young people, taking into account the human rights affirmed in the United Nations Declaration and in consultation and collaboration with indigenous peoples and indigenous children and youth organizations in particular.

17. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, in cooperation with indigenous young people, urgently address self-harm and suicide among indigenous young people and invites him to inform the Forum on progress in that regard at its fifteenth session.

18. The Permanent Forum urges all States to substantially increase the human and financial resources made available to all indigenous communities and schools to prevent self-harm and suicide among young people, and for holistic treatment based on cultural, spiritual and linguistic revitalization, providing healthy and positive lifestyle choices and access to traditional methods of counselling based on accurate and reliable data.

**Half-day discussion on the Pacific region**

19. The Pacific islands[2] are home to a diverse range of indigenous peoples, speaking 19 per cent of the world's estimated 5,000 languages. Indigenous peoples in the Pacific are still linked to their communal lands, belief systems, spirituality and customary laws, which form the basis of their social, economic and political systems. Owing to the diversity of Pacific countries and territories, there are significant variations in the social, political and economic situation of indigenous peoples in the region.

20. The small island developing States of the Pacific face specific environmental, social and economic challenges that have a significant impact on indigenous peoples in the exercise of their human rights. A distinctive feature of the Pacific region is that indigenous peoples make up most of the population in most Pacific island countries. At the same time, in some countries in the region, colonial settlements and immigration have reduced indigenous populations to a minority in their own lands.

21. Reiterating the recommendation made at its seventh session, the Permanent Forum recommends that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration focus on the vulnerability of

[2] Further information on the Pacific region is provided in the note by the Secretariat containing a study on decolonization in the region (E/C.19/2013/12).





indigenous peoples in the Pacific region, in particular in view of the effects of climate change (see E/2008/43-E/C.19/2008/13, chap. 1, sect. B, para. 59).

22. Consistent with article 10 of the United Nations Declaration, the Permanent Forum calls upon Member States and human rights institutions to consider examining, in conjunction with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and other mandate holders, the forced relocation of indigenous communities.

23. The Permanent Forum expresses concern regarding the many reported cases of violations of the collective rights of indigenous peoples in the Pacific region. This includes their right to self-determination, the destruction of their lands, territories and resources, especially by extractive industries, displacements, violations of their free, prior and informed consent and the criminalization of indigenous peoples.

24. The Permanent Forum recalls its recommendations contained in paragraphs 52, 54, 55 and 58 of the report on its seventh session (ibid., chap. I, sect. B) and expresses concern for the human rights of indigenous peoples in the context of Non-Self-Governing Territory issues and those seeking reinscription as a Non-Self-Governing Territory, and calls upon the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and other mandate holders to examine and report on the impact on the human rights of those indigenous peoples in that regard.

**Comprehensive dialogue with United Nations agencies**

25. The Permanent Forum commends the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for their work on rural development addressing production and hunger and for the high standards set in ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples.

26. The Permanent Forum acknowledges IFAD for the implementation of its policy on indigenous peoples and for selecting "Indigenous peoples' food systems and sustainable livelihoods" as the theme of the second global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD. The Forum expects that IFAD will continue to strengthen its engagement with indigenous peoples in its future work by ensuring engagement at the country level through targeted programmes, capacity-building for indigenous peoples and project staff and the development of specific indicators on the well-being of indigenous peoples.

27. The Permanent Forum recommends that FAO, in coordination with indigenous peoples, organize training and other capacity-building development, as well as establish mechanisms for engagement such as working groups and appropriate representation of indigenous peoples in relevant instruments and bodies of FAO, and provide a progress report on those activities to the Forum at its fifteenth session.

28. The Permanent Forum encourages Member States, in cooperation with United Nations agencies, to develop social policies that will enhance the production of indigenous peoples' traditional foods and promote the restoration or recovery of lost drought-resistant indigenous food varieties to ensure food security. In this context, the Forum recommends that Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger, as well as United Nations agencies such as FAO, IFAD and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, establish a committee, in full consultation with and with the participation of indigenous peoples, aimed at preventing food crises in the

sub-Saharan region where indigenous peoples reside. The committee's objective should be to prevent humanitarian disasters and, in particular, to prevent starvation at the same level as the disaster that struck the region in 1973.

29. The Permanent Forum, bearing in mind the importance of the right of indigenous peoples to food sovereignty and security, invites Member States to consider the possibility of announcing an international year of camelids with the aim of drawing attention to the management of lands, territories and resources and for the breeding of camelids.

**Human rights**

30. Recognizing that the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues will play a central role in coordinating efforts among United Nations agencies to translate the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples into meaningful change, the Permanent Forum requests that the Group ensure that its membership includes all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including specialized agencies. The Forum recommends that the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the Advisory Board of the United Nations Office for Partnerships and other relevant United Nations agencies take the measures necessary for addressing the special situation of indigenous peoples in developed countries.

31. As a matter of indigenous human rights and consistent with article 18 of the United Nations Declaration, previous Permanent Forum recommendations and the outcome document of the World Conference, with particular consideration of paragraph 33, the right to participate in decision-making is highly relevant to fast-approaching and pivotal multilateral negotiations. In this regard, the Forum urgently requests all States, United Nations agencies and high-level representatives of the United Nations system to ensure the direct participation of indigenous peoples in the multilateral negotiations referred to below. The Forum also requests that all those actors advocate and ensure that there is explicit reference to indigenous peoples and their distinct human rights and status throughout the processes relating to:

(a) The United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, to be held from 25 to 27 September 2015;

(b) The high-level event on climate change, to be held in New York on 29 June 2015, and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015;

(c) The third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015.

32. The Permanent Forum also requests that States and United Nations agencies engaging in those events ensure strong linkages with the outcome document of the World Conference, with particular consideration of paragraph 33, and indigenous participation.

33. The Permanent Forum reminds States that the implementation of the United Nations Declaration provides a common framework for reconciliation, justice, healing and peace. Each State has a prime responsibility and duty to protect,

promote and implement all human rights, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights law. Furthermore, all forms of discrimination must be avoided.

34. The Permanent Forum recommends that United Nations treaty bodies and mechanisms, as well as the universal periodic review process, scrutinize the reports and human rights records of States, so as to effectively address rights ritualism. This should include ensuring that States' claims are systematically compared with the concerns raised by indigenous peoples and civil society.

35. The Permanent Forum highlights that unprincipled positions and actions of States undermine indigenous peoples' human rights and the United Nations Declaration and that such conduct prejudices indigenous peoples globally and serves to weaken the international human rights system. States must therefore take steps, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that their commitments and obligations are not violated in other international forums, especially following the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. In accordance with both the outcome document of the World Conference and the United Nations Declaration, States, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, should develop legislation and mechanisms at the national level to ensure that laws are consistent with the United Nations Declaration.

36. The Permanent Forum is concerned that legal obligations and commitments and indigenous peoples' treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with States are routinely denied and violated by States. With regard to interventions by indigenous peoples on unresolved land rights, including the Six Nations of the Grand River and others on which the Forum has made specific recommendations in the past, the Forum calls upon States to fairly and equitably redress the long-standing unresolved land rights issues through good-faith negotiations, consistent with the United Nations Declaration and without extinguishing indigenous peoples' land rights.

**Future work**

37. The Permanent Forum notes the participation of United Nations and indigenous experts in the panel discussion on the proposed indigenous peoples development index. In particular, the Forum notes the work of States, United Nations agencies and indigenous experts in developing indicators, such as on cultural integrity, status and trends in relation to land tenure and food security, and the Indigenous Navigator project as positive initiatives towards the development of such an index.

38. In establishing indicators, the focus should be on the vision and world view of indigenous peoples, based on collective rights, such as those to identity, land, territory, free, prior and informed consent and women's participation in local, national and international decision-making processes.

39. The Permanent Forum intends to make the formulation of an indigenous peoples' development index, based on the human rights affirmed in the United Nations Declaration and international human rights instruments, a recurring part of its agenda. The Forum recommends that the United Nations Development Programme, especially its Human Development Report Office, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights assist the Forum in

developing such an index, building on existing initiatives by indigenous peoples and United Nations agencies, and report thereon to the Forum at its fifteenth session.

40. The Permanent Forum recommends that Member States actively engage with their indigenous peoples in both developed countries and developing countries, including indigenous women, indigenous youth and indigenous persons with disabilities, in developing key indicators on indigenous peoples, including for data disaggregation, to be included in the overall indicators for the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted in March 2016.

41. The Permanent Forum calls upon States to recognize indigenous peoples, where they exist, consistent with the provisions of the United Nations Declaration, in their legislation in order to gather statistical data thereon, especially in the area of allocation of land and other natural resources for traditional use.

42. The reform of the methods of work of the Permanent Forum was considered under agenda item 8, "Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues". Within the scope of resolution 2000/22 of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Declaration and the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, the Forum reform initiative is intended to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the Forum and its interaction with its secretariat. A wide range of matters must be addressed, in particular the need to reduce the number of recommendations while strengthening the follow-up to and implementation of outstanding recommendations, an issue that was underscored by both Member States and indigenous peoples. The expert members of the Forum were encouraged by several constructive statements and detailed suggestions made by Member States and representatives of indigenous peoples on the subject. The Forum will remain seized of the reform process and discuss the matter, in a transparent and accountable manner, at future sessions.

43. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Commission on the Status of Women consider the empowerment of indigenous women as a priority theme of its sixty-first session, in 2017, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration.

44. The Permanent Forum appoints Valmaine Toki to conduct a study on the relationship between indigenous peoples and the Pacific Ocean, taking into account issues of governance, the effects of climate change, deep sea mining, resources and sustainable development.

45. The Permanent Forum appoints Edward John and Dalee Sambo Dorough to conduct a study on how States exploit weak procedural rules in international organizations to devalue the United Nations Declaration and other international human rights law.

# Chapter II
## Venue, dates and proceedings of the session

46. By its decision 2014/244, the Economic and Social Council decided that the fourteenth session of the Permanent Forum would be held at United Nations Headquarters from 20 April to 1 May 2015.

47. At its 2nd to 7th meetings, from 20 to 23 April 2015, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 3, entitled "Follow-up on the recommendations of the Permanent Forum", including sub-items (a), "Outcome of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples", (b), "Post-2015 development agenda", and (c), "Youth, self-harm and suicide". For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the notes by the Secretariat entitled "Analysis prepared by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples" (E/C.19/2015/3) and "Compilation of information from Member States on addressing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum" (E/C.19/2015/5). At its 17th meeting, on 1 May, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under agenda item 3 (see chap. I, sect. B).

48. At its 4th meeting, on 21 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 4, entitled "Half-day discussion on the Pacific region". At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under agenda item 4 (see chap. I, sect. B).

49. At its 12th meeting, on 28 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 5, entitled "Half-day discussion on the expert group meeting on the theme 'Dialogue on an optional protocol to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples'". For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it a note by the Secretariat entitled "Expert group meeting on the theme 'Dialogue on an optional protocol to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples'" (E/C.19/2015/8). At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under agenda item 5 (see chap. I, sect. B).

50. At its 6th and 7th meetings, on 23 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 6, entitled "Comprehensive dialogue with United Nations agencies and funds", jointly with agenda item 3 (b), entitled "Post-2015 development agenda". During those meetings, there was a dialogue with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. For its consideration of item 6, the Forum had before it the notes by the Secretariat entitled "Compilation of information received from United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum" (E/C.19/2015/6) and "Report on the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues annual meeting for 2014" (E/C.19/2015/7). At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under agenda item 6 (see chap. I, sect. B).

51. At its 10th and 11th meetings, on 27 April, as well as at its 14th and 15th meetings, on 29 and 30 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 7, entitled "Human rights", including sub-items (a), "Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples", and (b), "Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". During those meetings, there was a dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous

peoples, with a specific focus on economic, social and cultural rights. At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted its recommendations submitted under agenda item 7 (see chap. I, sect. B).

52. At its 5th, 7th to 9th and 13th to 16th meetings, on 22, 23, 24, 29 and 30 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 8, entitled "Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues", and discussed, among other things, its methods of work and indigenous human development and human rights indicators. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the notes by the Secretariat entitled "Twenty-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and beyond: a framework to advance indigenous women's issues" (E/C.19/2015/2), "Study on the treatment of traditional knowledge in the framework of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the post-2015 development agenda" (E/C.19/2015/4) and "Cross-border issues, including recognition of the right of indigenous peoples to trade in goods and services across borders and militarized areas" (E/C.19/2015/9). At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted a draft decision and its recommendations submitted under agenda item 8 (see chap. I, sects. A and B).

53. At its 16th meeting, on 30 April, the Permanent Forum considered agenda item 9, entitled "Draft agenda for the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum". At its 17th meeting, the Forum considered and adopted a draft decision submitted under agenda item 9 (see chap. I, sect. A).

# Chapter III
## Adoption of the report of the Forum on its fourteenth session

54. At its 17th meeting, on 1 May, the Rapporteur introduced the draft decisions and recommendations and the draft report of the Permanent Forum on its fourteenth session.

55. At the same meeting, the Permanent Forum adopted its draft report.

# Chapter IV
# Organization of the session

## A. Opening and duration of the session

56. The Permanent Forum held its fourteenth session at United Nations Headquarters from 20 April to 1 May 2015. It held 17 formal meetings and 3 closed meetings to consider the items on its agenda.

57. At the 1st meeting, on 20 April, the session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. At the opening ceremony, Tododaho Sid Hill, of the Onondaga Nation, delivered a welcoming address. The President of the General Assembly, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council delivered statements.

58. At the same meeting, statements were made by the Chair of the Permanent Forum, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Head of the Department for Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

## B. Attendance

59. Members of the Permanent Forum and representatives of Governments, intergovernmental organizations and bodies, United Nations entities, and non-governmental and indigenous organizations attended the session. The list of participants is contained in document E/C.19/2015/INF/1.

## C. Election of officers

60. At its 1st meeting, on 20 April, the Permanent Forum elected the following members of the Bureau by acclamation:

*Chair*:
Megan Davis

*Vice-Chairs*:
Joan Carling
Oliver Loode
Joseph Mutangah
Álvaro Pop

*Rapporteur*:
Kara-Kys Arakchaa

## D. Agenda

61. At its 1st meeting, on 20 April, the Permanent Forum adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document E/C.19/2015/1.

## E. Documentation

62. A list of the documents before the Permanent Forum at its fourteenth session is contained in document E/C.19/2015/INF/2.

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